GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4603
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2002
GLOBAL GLAUCOMA MEETING
M. JAGANNATH

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a 2-day Global Glaucoma meeting was held in India in the month of November, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the outcome of the meeting;

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to spread the message of the meeting throughout the country;

(d) whether it is a fact that vision once lost due to glaucoma cannot be regained; and

(e) if so, the remedial steps taken/being taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. A two days Galucoma Society meeting was held at Dr. R..P.Centre, AIIMS, New Delhi on 9th and 10th November 2002. The suggestion made of the Galucoma Society are as under:-

i. A country wide survey is needed to determine the prevalence and blindness due to Galucoma, as also its risk factors. A high prevalence of 4.7% in the population over 40 years of age was seen in small surveys from South India

ii. Screening programs should target the high-risk population at comprehensive eye camps, private eye clinics, optometrists and primary health facilities.

iii. Galucoma health education material about the importance of visual assessment at and after the age of 40 years, especially in relatives of patients having Galucoma.

iv. Research in Galucoma should be considered a priority at appropriate levels of the eye health care delivery system.

v. Diagnosis of Galucoma and its management should be stressed at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels with specific emphasis on gonioscopy and primary.

vi. All District Hospitals and Medical Colleges need to be equipped with Slit Lamps, Gonioscopes, Appanation Tonometers, Automated Perimeters and Nd Yaglasers.

(c): Recommendation of the meeting are under consideration.

(d): Yes, Sir.

(e): Blindness due to Galucoma can be avoided by early detection & appropriate treatment in eye care facility.